



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS
NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE
27130 TELEGRAPH ROAD
QUANTICO VA 22134-2253

5720 F13-0121
SEROOLJF/13U1042

21 APR 2013

Mr. Trevor Griffey

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]


Dear Mr. Griffey:

The processing of your request for information pertaining to Robert H. W. Birch which was referred to this office by the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been completed. Our review of the documents reveals they contain personal identifiers (such as names and social security numbers) of third parties, the release of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Accordingly, we must partially deny your request and withhold this information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) provisions 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) and (b)(7)(C). All releasable information is provided to you at enclosure (1).

As the official responsible for the partial denial of your request, I am advising you of your right to appeal this determination. Your appeal must be postmarked within 60 calendar days from the date of this letter and should be addressed to the Secretary of the Navy's designee: Office of the Judge Advocate General, (Code 14), 1322 Patterson Avenue, S.E., Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, D.C. 20374-5066. The envelope and letter should bear the annotation "FOIA Appeal." Please include a copy of your original request with your appeal letter.

There are no assessable fees associated with the processing of your request.

Sincerely,


CARIN M. COZZA
LT, JAGC, USN

Encl:
(1) Documents

Explanation of FOIA/PA Exemptions

Subsections of Title 5, United States Code, Section 552

- (A) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could be reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could be reasonably expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

Subsections of Title 15, United States Code, Section 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, **benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;**
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

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not/used/for

Serial: 01759

NOV 10 1959

From: District Intelligence Officer, NINT Naval District
To: Director of Naval Intelligence

Subj: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY - The
Salmon 70, Massachusetts

- Re: (1) The New Book of the John Birch Society
(2) The Life of John Birch
(3) American Review, January 1959 issue
(4) American Review, June 1959 issue
(5) Trust entitled: "Why People Become Communists"
(6) Trust entitled: "A Letter to KENNEDY"
(7) Application for Membership
(8) John Birch Society Monthly Bulletin, Sep 30, 1959

1. The JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY was founded by one Robert M. WELCH, Jr., of Belmont, Massachusetts in Indianapolis, Indiana on 9 December 1958, for the avowed purpose of combatting Communism. Two membership drive meetings were held at Knoxville, Tennessee during October 1959, and enclosures (1) through (8) inclusive, with the following quoted excerpts from a report by a confidential reliable source who attended the second meeting, 21 October 1959, are forwarded to assist in providing a characterization of the Subject society.

2. "The second meeting was held in the office of [REDACTED] Suite 101, Elmont Professional Building, Knoxville, Tennessee. The persons attending the meeting were the Society's Regional Coordinator, [REDACTED] and the writer.

3. "The meeting began with [REDACTED] explanation of the contents of a taped recorded speech played during the first meeting. The tapes had been made by Mr. Robert M. WELCH, Jr., of Belmont, Massachusetts. Mr. WELCH, past president of the Welch Candy Company of Belmont, Massachusetts, has, for the past nine years devoted his time "in fighting Communism". The tapes played at the first meeting, substantiated the growth of Communism in Europe, Asia and the United States.

Reviewed by [REDACTED]
SIRS/NCIS Code 22
Reviewed on 04 Apr 13
NCIS info is unclassified

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Subj: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY - The, Belmont 70, Massachusetts

NOV 10 1959

Another project for the local group is to raise funds or obtain an advertising banner so that [redacted], news analyst, will once again be carried by the local radio stations.

7. Source's Comments. "The organization's objectives as presented do not appear to be questionable but the structure of the organization and its leadership appear to warrant closer scrutiny. Mr. WELCH, in his talk, revealed a dictatorial mind along with certain possible Fascist leanings. Mr. WELCH, during his speech, indicated that he would not be opposed to, in fact would favor, strong militant methods to obtain his objective. This, combined with the organization's method of operations, i.e. no questioning of orders received, could lend itself to a Fascist type organization. Mr. WELCH also stated that he had access to the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation through a life-time friend who was acting as an advisor to the Bureau.

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8. [redacted] stated that he had been dismissed from the University of Tennessee due to campus politics. Information obtained indicates that he may have been dismissed because of Fascist tendencies. [redacted] stated that he was married to a Spanish girl and had lived many years in Spain. He is an accomplished linguist, speaking Spanish and French fluently. From the use of various terms and words, the writer believes that [redacted] may possibly have served with the United States Navy sometime in the past.

9. [redacted] stated the reason for his joining the organization was that he had fought Communism all his life. The example he used to describe Communism was that of a man formerly employed by a bank, owned by [redacted] and his father, who absconded with a large sum of money. As a result of this, [redacted] and his father were forced out of the banking business. [redacted] after seeking and finding employment at the Tennessee National Bank, Knoxville, Tennessee, was dismissed due to this absconder's influence at the bank. Not at any time during [redacted] story did he indicate that this man had been a Communist. Both [redacted] and [redacted] appear to be maladjusted and have a deep resentment against Society for the unfortunate happenings in their life.

10. "Other members of the organization are not known to the writer. [redacted] who arrived late made few, if any statements which would reveal his reason for joining the organization. However, he appeared very intense in his "search" for Communist literature having just discovered a new magazine from which he read a few excerpts.

11. [redacted] of Hookingham Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee, a neighbor and recent recruit to this organization explains the Society as follows: It is a nonlithic society with one leader who tells the members what to do. No discussion is allowed and all members are assigned one job a month. This month, the duties include writing letters to various Congressmen. She envisions the primary objective of the Society as that of defeating and eliminating the

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Serial:

01759

Subj: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY - The, Belmont 78, Massachusetts

NOV 10 1959

4. "Last night's tapes covered the proposed organization of the Society and an explanation of the title, The John Birch Society. [redacted] BIRCH was a missionary in China and had assisted Chiang Kai-shek in his fight against the Japanese. During Chiang Kai-shek's campaign in Northern China, [redacted] along with several other persons in Southern China attempted to stem the rise of Communism in China. Following the end of World War II [redacted] was a key target for Communist assassins and subsequently was killed. Mr. WALSH has chosen the name John BIRCH for the title of the Society in the attempt to use the man's life as an example for all "patriotic members" in the organization.

5. "The Society is to be organized in the following manner: a few dedicated, non-paid leaders will be in the top echelon, a few district and local coordinators in the middle echelon, who will be financially reimbursed, and a hard core of devoted supporters who would receive no compensation but give their time freely and willingly to the Society's cause. Mr. WALSH, in his talk, stated that he was the only one in the country capable of leading such an organization. The purpose of the organization is "less government and more responsibility." The present targets for the organization are the defeat of "the Communist-run United Nations", stoppage of aid to foreign countries and the fighting of Communist organizations. An additional immediate objective is that of opposing unions, especially that headed by [redacted]. It is intended that this organization should number one million people and that each of the members receive his instructions without question and follow any orders given. Emphasis is laid upon the fact that the Society is not anti-religious. In fact, it advocates strong religious ties.

6. "The local Knoxville Chapter, headed by [redacted] presently is comprised of nineteen members [redacted] signed and was accepted last evening making the nineteenth member. In order to establish a Chapter a total of twenty members are required. The closest existing Chapter is that in Sevierville, Tennessee, Chapter Number 13, whose leader is [redacted].

The District Coordinator is [redacted]. There is an active group in Gatlinburg, Tennessee who, as of yet, do not have sufficient persons to be recognized as a full Chapter. This is handled under the form of "Home Chapter". Dues for membership are \$24.00 per year for men and \$12.00 for women. The present task of the local group is writing letters to various Senators, i.e. [redacted] supporting his stand on the visit of [redacted] Khrushchev and requesting that President Eisenhower not make his proposed trip to Russia in the near future. In addition, they presently are studying what books are available and on display in the Public Library with the future intent to eliminate books considered pro-Communist and replace them with books of their own choosing. All books will be chosen by Mr. WALSH. They hope to establish in Knoxville a reading room containing approximately 100 books, (similar to Christian Science Reading Rooms) which will be made available not only to members of the Society but to the public. These rooms will be staffed by trained volunteers who will instruct all visitors in how to "fight Communism."

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HUG/COMO/...
Serial: 01759

TO: JOSEPH H. ... - The, Belmont 78, Massachusetts

NOV 10 1959

Communist inspired United Nations, preventing any and all future foreign aid and fighting Communism. Statements made by this person reveal that she is completely unaware that there may be more than one side of thought to any issue. The doctrine presented to her by the Society appears to be accepted without question and probably will be rigidly adhered to.

12. "The official magazine of the Society is called American Opinion; its Editor is Robert WELCH. In addition, the group publishes a "Blue Book" which is a verbatim written record of the tapes to which the writer listened and there is a monthly bulletin published by the Society setting forth the agenda for its Chapters. The aforementioned publications with other literature of the Society is included in enclosures (1) through (8) inclusive."

13. The files of the District Intelligence Office, SIXTH Naval District contain additional information concerning the Subject Society also as to John BIRCH, John Harrison BIRCH, [redacted] Robert E. WELCH, Jr., [redacted] and [redacted], who are mentioned in the above paragraphs.

14. Copy addresses of this letter are not furnished enclosures (1) through (8) because of their bulk and reproduction difficulties; neither have copies been retained for DIO-6ND files.

15. Forwarded for information.

NEIS
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H. W. SADLER

Copy to: (last encls)
DIO-IND
DIO-9ND
FBI-Knoxville
OSI, Distr # 6
Third Army, 0-2